In the Specification:

Please **AMEND** the following sections as indicated:

Page 1, lines 24-26, replace with:

A-1 The present invention has been accomplished in view of the above considerations, and has the object of offering a speech decoder and speech decoding method capable of lessening the reduction of the subjective sound quality even when fame errors occur in succession.

Page 3, lines 7-8, replace with:

A-2 Here, the decoding processing portion 11 is a device for decoding the received coded speech signals (bitstream) BS and outputting the decoded speech signals SP.

Page 5, lines 18-20, replace with:

A-3 The adaptive preprocessing filter 25 is a device which functions as an emphasizing process means for emphasizing the harmonic components of the original fixed code vector FCV0, and outputs the result as a fixed code vector FCV.

Please **DELETE** the following:

On page 5, lines 16-17 in their entirety.

In the Claims:

Please **CANCEL** Claims 1-8, without prejudice to the Assignee.

Please **ADD** the following Claims:

A-4 9(new).   A speech decoder for generating an excited signal from a coded speech signal inputted on a frame basis and decoding said coded speech signal on a basis of said excited signal, comprising:

an emphasizing unit for performing an emphasis process on said coded speech signal to generate said excited signal;

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